



Beyond the Storm

Carolyn Zane

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After a tornado rips through her town, store owner Abigail comes across a piece of fabric from a wedding dress among the devastation. Abigail is moved to start collecting other swatches of fabric she finds - her neighbor's kitchen curtains, a man's necktie, a dog's bed - which she stashes in shopping bags. As she pursues her seemingly absurd quest, horrible realities spark the question, What kind of a God would allow such tragedy? As she struggles to reconcile her right to happiness amidst the destruction, Abigail begins piecing together a patchwork quilt from the salvaged fabric in hopes it will bring some peace. But a new relationship with Justin, a contractor, may require too much of her fragile heart. Will her pain and questions of faith give way to the courage to love?

Beyond the Storm Details

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From Reader Review Beyond the Storm for online ebook

Kathleen says

While it is true, I read a lot, I rarely read a book in a day. It certainly won't appeal to everyone, but for me, this book had just the right blend of words, ideas and characters to speak to me, with a message I needed to hear.

I chose the book because of it's theme of quilting, and was surprised to see a label on it that it is Christian Fiction. It reinforced my love of quilting and stitching meaning into the quilts I make, but more importantly it was a sermon of living faith, why bad things happen, how to be secure in a life of prayer, the release of forgiveness and the gift of grace. A beautiful and bold message of the priceless value of relationships with others and with God being more valuable than any other earthly thing. Quite a book for only 270 pages.

Dawn says

I've read several of Carolyn Zane's books in the past and enjoyed them. When the cover of QUILT was called for book cover bingo, I jumped at the chance to read this one as it was already on my kindle. It's really a 4.5 star rating.

When a massive tornado strikes the heart of the small town of Rawston, the people are left to pick up the pieces of their lives. Hair stylist Abigail begins gathering scraps of fabric and holding them close. Construction worker Justin not only delivers a baby but he also begins to develop a relationship with Abby. When Abby's aunt offers all who have been misplaced a place to stay at her house, this makeshift family of Abby, Justin, Abby's aunt, a teenager, a young mom, a young dad, their toddler son, and one of Abby's aunt's employees are all shown how to make a quilt. Using the scraps that Abby gathered along with other pieces that show how important one man was to them, they, along with the rest of the town, make a quilt that shows just how much influence one man can have on the world. The quilt was used to bring healing to their broken hearts.

This is a very gripping story of how tragedy can transform into redemption. Because of one man, who lost his life in the storm, the lives of so many were touched by him and his faith. And those lives are forever changed.

Teresa Snyder says

This is the second book that I've read in the Quilts of Love series. Impressed. Great books. This is the first Carolyn Zane book that I've read, hopefully it will not be my last.

Admittedly, this book has a lot of characters and it was difficult to keep them all straight in the beginning. By the end, I was in love with all of them! Especially Bob Ray. He did a complete 360. I could not stand him in the beginning. Found myself hoping he would get his comeuppance. He did. God jerked a knot in his tail.

Justin, one of the main characters, was equally adorable. Between him and Bob Ray, I sighed my way

through the book.

Good happily-ever-after ending. Kinda odd to say, considering the book centers around a EF5 tornado, but it was a feel good kind of book.

Mandy Helfer (Dubiansky) says

Intense but enjoyable

I really enjoyed this story, especially all of the characters. Parts of the story were a bit intense - descriptions of the storm devastation. I didn't emotionally prepare myself for that. I was going to give it a lower rating due to my own personal preference on that. However, it is a really memorable book that held my attention and kept me reading. That deserves a higher rating.

Charline Romine says

Bless the Lord, oh my soul.

I loved this story! I live in tornado alley, too. Almost a year ago a tornado took out the south end of the shopping center I work in. It is being rebuilt and almost finished. The beauty shop I work at wasn't touched at all. Thank you, Lord.

Connie N. says

My overall rating on this is really 3.5 stars, but I'll round up because of the warm feeling I felt when it was done. This is a story about hardship, followed by hope. We get to know a community at the beginning, then learn to love them as they go through a devastating tornado and its aftermath. Each person deals with the storm in his/her own way, growing in faith and learning to overcome doubts. Several people come together to piece together a loving quilt in honor of one of their friends--picking up the pieces after devastation and putting things back together again, in a new and more beautiful way. I liked the way Zane built the tension before the storm by providing little excerpts of increasingly dire weather reports and tornado warnings on the radio. Very nice and the first in a series of stories from several authors about quilts and the love that is sewn into them.

Favorite quote about life, "Sometimes, it takes everything turning upside down to show you what is right-side-up."

And about faith, "When a train goes through a tunnel and it gets dark, you don't throw away the ticket and jump off. You sit still and trust the engineer. And so now...when everything seems a mess, I can rest. He's on the job."

Lisa Carter says

An inspirational read when you find yourself facing a storm, in the midst of a storm or dealing with a storm's aftermath. A novel of triumph and hope. I'm a new Carolyn Zane fan. Great novel to debut Abingdon's Quilts of Love series.

Lorraine says

WOW what a page turner! This book takes place in a small mid-western town. The storyline focuses on a cast of characters before, during, and after a major tornado. The emphasis of the storyline is on why do bad things happen to good people and second chances. The author weaves each of the character's stage and change in faith throughout the storyline. I found this a really remarkable piece of Christian writing sprinkled with "faith gems" that will stay in my mind for a long time. This is part of the Quilts of Love line and I look forward to reading more of this series.

Lori Henrich says

Loved this so much. Didn't like what happened to one of the characters, but still good. This is a beautifully pieced together story of survival and weathering a storm that will either destroy you or make you stronger.

Abby is kind of content where she is, but thoughts of moving to L.A. and the spotlight of another job is causing her to think about moving on. When a terrible tornado rips through her hometown and destroys her business and home and wreaks havoc with the lives of family and friends; Abby begins to realize that there is only one thing that can really sustain someone during the storms of life.

Great story hoping the others in the series are just as well done. Not sure if I have read a series where the other installments are done by other authors. This should be interesting.

JoAnn says

Beautiful story

Beyond the Storm is a very well-written inspirational romance. A series of tragedy, forgiveness, love and redemption. I highly recommend this great book.

Vannetta Chapman says

A captivating story of tragedy and healing.
Carolyn Zane writes with compassion and humor.
This book was one I couldn't put down.

Megan says

Being from the Midwest, this book touched me deeply. Though I've never had anything like this happen to me, there have been watches and warnings near where I live and it is always a possibility that it could happen. Everything is described in such a way that I felt like I was in the storm and it was frightening!

Even though I had an inkling what was going to happen, the story was still so powerful and moving that it had me tearing up several times throughout the book. And I'm not a person who cries easily.

I love how instead of the story being about just one couple it is about several different families. Families that come together and become close friends after the storm.

This is my first book by this author, but I'm looking forward to reading more of her work.

I highly recommend *Beyond the Storm*.

I received a complimentary copy of this book to review. I was asked to give my honest opinion of the book - which I have done.

Barbara says

I've never experienced the weather and destruction that Carolyn Zane wrote about in *Beyond the Storm* but I felt like I was there with Abigail, Justin, Bob Ray, Jen, and others. I really enjoyed reading this one and look forward to book #2 in the series.

Kara says

I unearthed this little story from the back of my TBR shelf recently, while sorting my books. I'd actually forgotten I had it and upon reading the blurb again, was intrigued enough to read it all in one sitting right then! It's a sweet story that delves into the harshness of tornadoes and the resilience of those devastated by their effects. Kudos to Ms. Zane for making me feel like I was right there huddled with these residents as they endured the tornado and its aftermath! I cannot imagine going through such a horrible experience, and my heart was in my throat during those scenes.

My favorite part was the new surrogate family that the tornado brought together. These people are all so very different and under ordinary circumstances, they probably would never have even said much more than hello to one another. But needs must bring them all under one roof and I loved seeing them help each other through! The romance bits were sweet as well, but as they weren't the overall focus of the story, there's not a lot of time spent there. Ultimately an enjoyable read!

Janet Friesner says

A lovely book about a town nearly totaled by a tornado and the people who banded together in a wonderful way with the help of a faithful, wonderful God, who was with them in a truly wonderful way. Love Christian Fiction.
